

Application guidelines

UNAOC-EF Summer School

These guidelines aim to describe the objectives of the UNAOC-EF Summer School and serve as a tool for the applicants to properly submit their application. They contain information about:

- The UNAOC-EF Summer School and its organizers
- Eligibility Criteria; and
- Selection Criteria and Selection Committee
- Applying to the UNAOC-EF Summer School

Applicants can also consult the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) Tab on the UNAOC-EF Summer School web site.

The UNAOC - EF Summer School

The conviction that youth are a driving force for positive social change is the basis for the UNAOC - EF Summer School. This week-long summer school brings together 75 youth from across the globe to address pressing global challenges within the context of cultural and religious diversity.

The objectives of the UNAOC-EF Summer School are to:

- Facilitate moments of encounter, exchange and skill-building between young people;
- Strengthen young people's capacity to get involved in the preparation and implementation of joint action across divides;
- Support youth in maximizing their impact as they bring about social change;
- Promote long-term collaborative relationships between people from diverse backgrounds;
- Develop a network of alumni and make it a true platform for joint action to help address global challenges.

www.unaocefsummerschool.org

Organizers

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC):

Established in 2005 by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the UN Alliance of Civilizations' mission is to improve cross-cultural understanding and cooperation among countries, peoples and communities.

We live together in an interconnected world, in which globalization goes side by side with a search for often narrow-based identities. How can extremism, polarization and divisions be best resisted? This is part of the global conversation to which the UNAOC contributes.

www.unaoc.org

EF Education First (EF)

EF Education First was founded in 1965 with the mission of opening the world through education. Now the world's largest private education company, EF offers programs centered around language learning, travel, and cultural exchange.

From Berlin to Beijing, Moscow to Mexico City, Dubai to Denver, EF operates 500 schools and offices worldwide and has a presence in over 100 countries. To date, EF has helped millions of people to learn a new language, discover the world or earn an academic degree.

www.ef.org

Location

The UNAOC - EF Summer School will be held on the campus of the EF International Language Center in Tarrytown, New York, USA. Tarrytown is about 45 kilometers from the center of New York City.

Timeline

- *Application deadline:* 9 March 2015, at 23:59 New York City local time. Any application received after this deadline will not be accepted.
- *75 selected participants announced:* 8 April 2015.
- *The UNAOC-EF Summer School begins:* 13 June 2015
- *The UNAOC-EF Summer School ends:* 20 June 2015

Costs Covered by the UNAOC-EF Summer School

Selected participants of the UNAOC - EF Summer School 2015 will be provided with the following:

- international travel to and from the international airport closest to their residence
- cost of USA visa processing, if applicable (if the participant needs a visa to enter the USA),

- shared accommodation (triple or quadruple rooms with participants of the same gender) while in Tarrytown,
- meals during the official portions of the Summer School,
- full event access during the entire week of the Summer School,
- shuttles from and to the airport in New York City and,
- international travel insurance while traveling from their residence to the Tarrytown campus until their return home from the program.

Participants will cover the following:

- costs incurred to travel to/from US mission (embassy, consulate) to apply for visa,
- local transportation to and from the international airport close to their residence,
- cost of meals and other incidental expenses while traveling from and to their residence to New York City,
- cost of meals and other incidental expenses incurred outside of the official portions of the Summer School,
- any souvenirs, phone calls, equipment, etc. purchased for the Summer School or during the Summer School.

Please note that neither the UNAOC nor EF will reimburse any expense incurred by participants to the Summer School.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered eligible to apply, applicants must fulfill all of the following criteria:

- be between the ages of 18 and 35 years old **on** 13 June 2015 — the start of the UNAOC - EF Summer School.
- be linked to an organization or a network (e.g. youth council, youth NGO, non-profit organization, youth-led organization, community organization, faith-based organization, youth network or platform, college, university, social entrepreneur, blogger, etc.)
- hold a passport valid until at least January 2016 (for a visa to be issued, a passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months after the expected date of entry into the country).
- possess upper-intermediate English proficiency. Read a detailed explanation below:

Language of Application and Summer School

As English is now the most common second language used around the world, we need to rely on it to conduct the training during the Summer School. By using English during the training, we are increasing the chances that participants will be able to express their views in a language also understood by others. In addition, conducting the training in English allows us to welcome applications from a larger, more diverse pool of eligible participants. Given the complexity of discussions and topics covered during training, we estimate that you would need to have an upper-intermediate English proficiency level. As a guide, this level roughly corresponds to:

- **EF level: B2 Upper intermediate**
- **Cambridge ESOL Main Suite: FCE**
- **Cambridge ESOL BEC: Vantage**
- **IELTS: 5-6**
- **TOEFL: 87-109**
- **TOEIC Listening & Reading: 400-485**
- **TOEIC Speaking & Writing: 155-195**

Also, the only language common among all members of the selection committee is English. Given this, completing your application in English is required.

Selection Criteria and Selection Committee

All eligible applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a selection committee composed of youth as well as UNAOC and EF staff.

The selection of the 75 participants will be based on responses to essay questions regarding motivation, as well as past and future involvement in issues to be tackled during the Summer School.

In addition, the Selection Committee considers applicants' professional and/or educational and/or volunteering background to see how it is positioning them in a way that would help them disseminate what they will learn. Furthermore, to ensure that participants make the most of the Summer School and contribute to achieving its objectives, UNAOC and EF select applicants whose profile, experience, motivations and intentions best match the specific objectives of the Summer School. Finally, the applicants' level of English proficiency will play a role in the selection process. Lastly, balance in terms of region and gender will be respected in the final selection.

Applying to the UNAOC-EF Summer School:

There is an increasing number of international opportunities available to young people. Summer Schools, institutes, conferences, exchange programs and others are offered by a variety of organizations on a variety of topics.

The UNAOC-EF Summer School has specific [objectives](#) aligned with the mission of both organizers - UNAOC and EF. These can vary greatly from other international opportunities. In considering the UNAOC-EF Summer School, we invite you to review the [Summer School web site](#) and the [UNAOC](#) and [EF](#) web sites to determine whether this opportunity matches your interest, engagement and goals.

Furthermore, to ensure that participants make the most of the Summer School and contribute to achieving its objectives, UNAOC and EF select applicants whose profile, experience and motivations best match the specific [objectives](#) of the Summer School. Please consider whether this opportunity is relevant for you at this point in your life and whether the work you are doing or intend to do is closely connected to it. We encourage you to answer all essay questions as they allow the Selection Committee to better understand your trajectory and intentions.

Required steps to apply:

- 1) Register by clicking on the "Apply" button on the following page www.unaocefsummerschool.org. This will lead you to a registration page.
- 2) After you have been successfully registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a unique URL. You should save this email as you will need the information and URL provided to login to the application form.
- 3) Fill the application form. We encourage you to answer all essay questions as they allow the Selection Committee to better understand your trajectory and intentions.
- 4) Submit your application by the deadline of 9 March 2015, at 11:59 pm New York City local time. Application received after this deadline will not be considered.

All applications must be submitted online. Applications sent by mail or fax will not be accepted.

Deadline to apply:

9 March 2015, at 11:59 pm New York City local time

For more information:

Email us at info@UNAOCEFSummerSchool.org